Alberta Finance
Economic Bulletin

ECONOMIC STATISTICS RELEASED DURING THE WEEK OF July 01, 2002 TO July 05, 2002

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
Building Permits ($ Millions)	May			The value of building permits in Canada decreased 7.6% in May. Although non-residential permits increased by 3.3%, residential permits fell by 12.6% primarily due to a decrease in multi-family dwellings. Despite this decrease, all 10 provinces showed strong growth in the value of residential permits with Quebec (46.8%) and Ontario (27.6%) showing the largest gains. Alberta's building permits decreased 8.2% in May, due to a 17.4% decrease in the residential sector that was only partially offset by a 16.6% increase in the non-residential sector. In 2002, Edmonton and Calgary have recorded the largest increases in the cumulative value of permits (in dollars) because of strong activity in the residential sector.
Alberta	498.9	-8.2%	-2.2%	
Canada	3601.8	-7.6%	11.6%	
Help-Wanted Index (1996 = 100)	June			The Canadian help-wanted index increased to 127.6 in June, up 0.6% from May. This is the fifth consecutive increase following 15 months of declines. All provinces except Manitoba (-0.4%) posted increases, with Alberta (2.1%), Prince Edward Island (2.0%), British Columbia (1.9%), and Saskatchewan (1.2%) reporting the largest gains. The Canadian index was down 16.8% from May 2001, while the Alberta index was down 22.2%.
Alberta	137.7	2.1%	-22.2%	
Canada	127.6	0.6%	-16.8%	
U.S. Unemployment	June			The U.S. unemployment rate increased to 5.9% in June, up from 5.8% in May, while payroll employment increased by a less than expected 36,000 jobs. Gains were reported in the service (33,000) and government (23,000) sectors while the manufacturing (-23,000) and retail (-18,000) sectors experienced the largest declines. The unemployment rate in June 2001 was 4.6%, 1.3 percentage points lower than June 2002.
	5.9%	0.1%	1.3%	